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PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDH RUEHKUK RUEHROV  
DE RUEHLB #0634/01 1600707  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 090707Z JUN 09 ZDK  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5068  
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 3377  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3889  
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BEIRUT 000634

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/FO, NEA/ELA  
ALSO FOR IO A/S BRIMMER  
P FOR DRUSSELL, RRANGASWAMY  
PARIS FOR RWALLER  
USUN FOR WOLFF/GERMAIN/SCHEDLBAUER  
NSC FOR SHAPIRO, MCDERMOTT  
DOD/OSD FOR FLOURNOY/KAHL/DALTON  
DRL/NESA FOR WHITMAN  
OVP FOR HMUSTAFA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/08/2019  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [LE](#)  
SUBJECT: LEBANON: OFFICIAL RESULTS CONFIRM MARCH 14'S  
VICTORY

REF: A. BEIRUT 630  
[1](#)B. BEIRUT 629

Classified By: Ambassador Michele J. Sison for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

GOL ANNOUNCES FINAL RESULTS  
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[1](#)1. (C) By mid-day on June 8, Interior Minister Baroud completed the official announcements of the names of the 128 winning candidates in the June 7 elections. The announcements confirmed that 71 seats went to the March 14-led coalition and 57 to the current opposition, so March 14 kept its parliamentary majority. Currently, March 14 has a 70-57 majority with one vacancy. Among those confirmed as winners were March 14 figures Saad Hariri, PM Fouad Siniora, Walid Jumblatt and Boutros Harb, the wife of Samir Geagea and the son of Amine Gemayel. We expect no other official GOL announcements on results.

NASRALLAH TO SPEAK TONIGHT; HIZBALLAH SAYS  
MAJORITY MUST NOT QUESTION ITS WEAPONS  
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[1](#)2. (C) Press reports that Hizballah SYG Hassan Nasrallah will speak on the election results on June 8 at 8:30 pm local time. Hizballah MP Mohammed Raad told Agence France Press on June 8 that "the majority must commit not to question our role as a resistance party, the legitimacy of our weapons arsenal and the fact that Israel is an enemy state", according to local news outlet Naharnet. Our contacts at UNSCOL reported that their sources with Hizballah and other opposition parties have stopped taking phone calls for the time being. UNSCOL staff analyzed they are currently strategizing about their next steps.

NEXT STEPS  
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[1](#)3. (C) With the election done, the process now begins to select a speaker of the parliament (a Shia) and prime minister (a Sunni) and a new cabinet. We expect the new Parliament members to reelect Nabih Berri as speaker after their mandate begins on June 21. Then the president holds

consultations and then names a PM-designate, almost certainly Saad Hariri, who will work to form a cabinet. There is no time limit for cabinet formation, which in the past has taken several weeks. In their concession statements, opposition parties Hizballah and the Free Patriotic Movement (Aoun) laid down markers that March 14 should agree to another national unity cabinet. Before the election, Hariri had indicated he was willing to do that but not to give the opposition a "blocking third" of cabinet seats.

14. (C) The key next steps of the process are summarized below.

Interior Minister Baroud notifies Speaker Berri and the Constitutional Council of the election results.

From June 8 to June 20, the current parliament and the current cabinet of PM Fouad Siniora remain fully authorized, although effectively lame ducks, and are not considered "caretakers".

On June 21, the new parliament's mandate begins and PM Siniora and the cabinet enter a caretaker status, during which time they may not make substantial policy decisions.

Beginning June 21, parliament has 15 days to meet and elect a Speaker.

After that, the President consults the political blocs and the Speaker on their preferences for PM and designates a PM to form a cabinet.

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The PM-designate consults with the Speaker and parliamentary blocs and then begins negotiations to form a cabinet.

The cabinet agrees on a written government program.

The parliament does a vote of confidence on the new cabinet and its program.

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